

AmeriGEOSS Initiative

Plenary Presentation

AmeriGEOSS Initiative Working Groups
November 9, 2015, GEO-XII



AmeriGEOSS

Initiative & Regional Coordination

Is a cooperative effort that:

- Reflects local, national, and regional interests of the GEO country-members for short and long-term planning, development, and implementation aligned with GEO activities.
- Will be entrenched in the institutional and technical capabilities of its country members and in the resources of other global initiatives available for the benefit of the region.
- Seeks to increase institutional and personal capacity and engage experts, stakeholders, and decision makers in the process of decision making.

AmeriGEOSS Initiative & Regional Coordination

- There are currently 15 Americas Caucus Member countries:

- Argentina
- Bahamas
- Belize
- Brazil
- Canada
- Chile
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Ecuador
- Honduras
- Mexico
- Panama
- Paraguay
- Peru
- United States



- The goal is to engage:
 - ✓ All countries and Participating Organizations in North, Central, South America, and the Caribbean.
 - ✓ Global GEO members and Participating Organizations working in the Americas.

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Birth of AmeriGEOSS Initiative

- Americas chair, Colombia, hosted Americas Caucus planning meeting in October 2014, and Principals identified priorities and mandated development of AmeriGEOSS initiative.
- Recognized periodic symposia worked well to share information, but challenging to maintain momentum and collaborative work between them.
- Changes in personnel and priorities caused linkages in Americas network to weaken and/or break.
- Regular coordination planned to strengthen Americas regional engagement in GEO.

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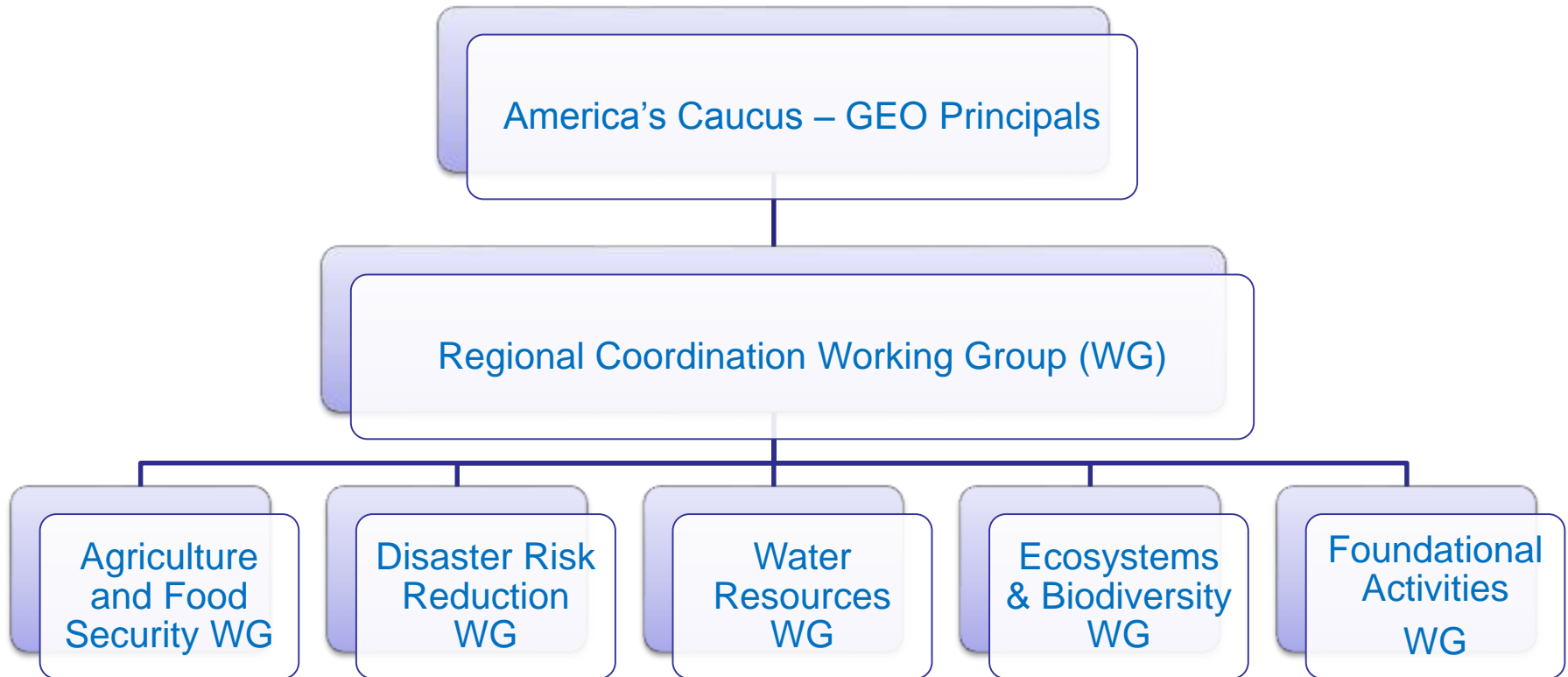
Initiative & Regional Coordination

Priority Areas

1. Agriculture, associated with climate variability, climate change, and food security.
2. Disaster risk reduction, particularly for data exchange associated with early warnings, and for the generation of regional products of early warnings.
3. Water, associated with the management approach of water resources and data management.
4. Biodiversity and Ecosystem Monitoring, in the context of capacity building for better monitoring, management, and maintenance of ecosystems and biodiversity they support; and to predict future changes.

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Coordination Process



Next: to develop TORs for each step in this Coordination Process

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Working Group Activities

1. Engage stakeholders to identify and address national and regional challenges.
2. Foster regional cooperation to build institutional and national capacity.
3. Coordinate across Working Groups and promote regionalization of global and foundational activities of GEO.
4. Map activities of PO in the region to identify synergies and gaps.
5. Define and monitor indicators of success.

Agriculture & Food Security

WG Activities

- Support of the SDG 2: End hunger, achieve the food security and improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.
- Support the development of a Latin American Regional GEOGLAM.
- Greater collaboration between US and Canada on GEOGLAM activities.
- Enhance current GEOGLAM monitoring activities to better encompass the priorities of Latin America (e.g. regionally important crops).
 - Early Warning Crop Monitor (for countries-at-risk)
 - *(eventually) Rangeland & Pasture Productivity (RAPP) Monitor*
 - *(eventually) full GEOGLAM Crop Monitor (all crops of national/regional importance)*
- Continue to develop the Rangeland & Pasture Productivity (RAPP) sub-Initiative (www.geo-rapp.org)
 - Australian leadership; large focus on South America.
 - Further grow Community of Practice.
- Seek participation of aquaculture and fisheries.

Water Resource Management

WG Activities

- Support for SDG 6: ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
- Provide regional response to the challenging issue of water services as well as the management perspective of the resource.
- These activities will be framed under the Global Water Sustainability (GEOGLoWS) Initiative.
- Water activities will support the GEO BON goals of conserving existing biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Biodiversity & Ecosystems

WG Activities

- **Goals:**

- Promote development of interoperable national and regional observation networks that underpin effective conservation and sustainable development
- Support national/global mandates
 - *Convention on Biological Diversity*
 - *Ramsar*
 - *Sustainable Development Goals*
 - *CMS*
 - *UNFCCC (REDD+)*
- Support the development of a Regional Marine Bon (mBON) Program in the Americas under GEOBON.
- Map Americas-wide terrestrial and pole-to-pole ecosystems.
- Build regional capacity and tools through GFOI/Silva Carbon.

Disaster Risk Reduction

WG Plans and Milestones

- Support Sendai Framework's first priority of understanding disaster risk.
- Prioritize disaster risks based on regional vulnerability assessment.
- Assess and engage ongoing GEO activities for application to regional risks.

Foundational Activities

WG Overview

- *Objective:*
To coordinate and leverage existing and planned national, regional, and international activities to address data access and sharing, interoperability, infrastructure and capacity building needs in the Americas.
- *Initial set of activities:*
 - GEONETCast-Americas.
 - Capacity building coordination with GEO and CEOS Working Group for Capacity Building and Data Democracy.

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- Americas Caucus endorsed the AmeriGEOSS initiative at the Caucus meeting.
- Example outcomes of meetings this week:
 - Additional members of Working Groups named.
 - Disasters Working Group initiated terms of reference.
 - Colombia and Chile will implement GEOGLAM as first pilot countries for Latin American GEOGLAM.
- We will reach out more broadly to the GEO community and participation organizations.